



Cohort Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Definition?

An accurate method of calculating graduation rates that is uniform across states is necessary to improve high school accountability. Requiring school officials to have written confirmation before removing a student from a cohort will improve the accuracy of graduation rate calculations. Written confirmation will also ensure that students who have dropped out of school are not counted as transfers and will consequently hold schools accountable for dropouts and others who do not graduate from high school with a regular diploma.¹

- ✓ The **final federal regulations** define the “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate” as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier (adjusting for transfers in and out, émigrés and deceased students—see below).
 - Students who graduate in four years include students who earn a regular high school diploma at the end of their fourth year; before the end of their fourth year; and, if a state chooses, during a summer session immediately following their fourth year.
 - To remove a student from a cohort, a school or district must confirm in writing that a student has transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased.
 - For students who transfer out of a school, the written confirmation must be official and document that the student has enrolled in another school or in an educational program that culminates in a regular high school diploma.
- ✓ The **four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate must be reported at the high school, district, and state levels in the aggregate as well as disaggregated by subgroups.**

¹A Uniform, Comparable Graduation Rate October 2008

How the final regulations for Title I hold schools, districts, and states accountable for improving graduation rates <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/proposal/uniform-grad-rate.html>

Where can we see the Kentucky Graduation Data?

The data can be viewed in the School Report Card on the Kentucky Department of Education's web page at this link: <http://applications.education.ky.gov/SRC/>

Choose State, District or School → Accountability → Next-Generation Learners → (NxGL)
Graduation Rate

What is the formula for rate calculation?

2013 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Calculation Formula

Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma by
the end of the 2012-13 school year

Number of first-time 9th graders in the fall 2009 (starting cohort) plus students who transfer in,
minus students who transfer out, emigrate or die during school years
2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

How is the cohort year part of the accountability?

- **Overall Score Reporting for Next-Generation Learners** - Individual student data collected from the assessments and college/career readiness and graduation rates generate a numeric value for each category of next-generation learners -- Achievement, Gap, Growth, College/Career Readiness and Graduation Rate. The value for each category is weighted to create a final overall score for next-generation learners. The following table illustrates the weights.

Grade Range	Achievement	Gap	Growth	College/Career Readiness	Graduation Rate	Total
Elementary	30	30	40	N/A	N/A	100
Middle	28	28	28	16	N/A	100
High	20	20	20	20	20	100

The 2012-13 data available in the KDE Report Card in October 2013 does have specific graduation rate goals for 2014 and 2015. The graduation rate counts 20% of the total score for high schools and districts.

- To determine how this is calculated, take the graduation rate and multiply by 20%.
 - For example, if you have a graduation rate of 75%, you would get 15 points toward the total score.

Graduation Rate Accountability

- 2012-13 School Report Card
 - Next-Generation Learners Score: 20% of Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (School year 2012-13)
 - Graduation Rate Goal - AFGR (School year 2011-12)
- 2013-14 School Report Card
 - Next-Generation Learners Score: 20% of Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (School year 2013-14)

How is the Cohort Determined?

The following page shows a flow chart to show how a student becomes a part of a specific cohort and how their final status is determined.

1. Student's first year in grade 9 date determines which cohort the student is in. For example if a student's first time grade 9 date is sometime during the 2009-10 school year, the student is a part of the 2013 cohort and must graduate with a regular high school diploma by July 31, 2013 to be an on-time graduate for that cohort.
2. A report pulls the last enrollment in the student information system (Infinite Campus, IC).
3. If the last enrollment end status is a four year or less graduation (G01, G02), the end date is prior to August 1, the diploma type on the graduation tab is set to regular high school diploma and the diploma date is prior to August 1, the student is moved to the on-time graduation list and in the top part of the ACGR graduation rate formula.
4. If the last enrollment end status is a W20 (withdrawal to homeschool), W21 (withdrawal to private school), W22 (withdrawal to another district with confirmed enrollment or out of state school) or deceased (W08), the student is moved to the verified transfer list and removed from both the top and bottom parts of the ACGR graduation rate formula. This student does not count positively or negatively for the school.
5. If a student does not meet the criteria listed in 3 or 4, the student is marked as a not on-time graduate and is counted in the bottom part of the ACGR graduation rate formula.

What cohort are they in if first enrollment in 9th grade was not in Kentucky?

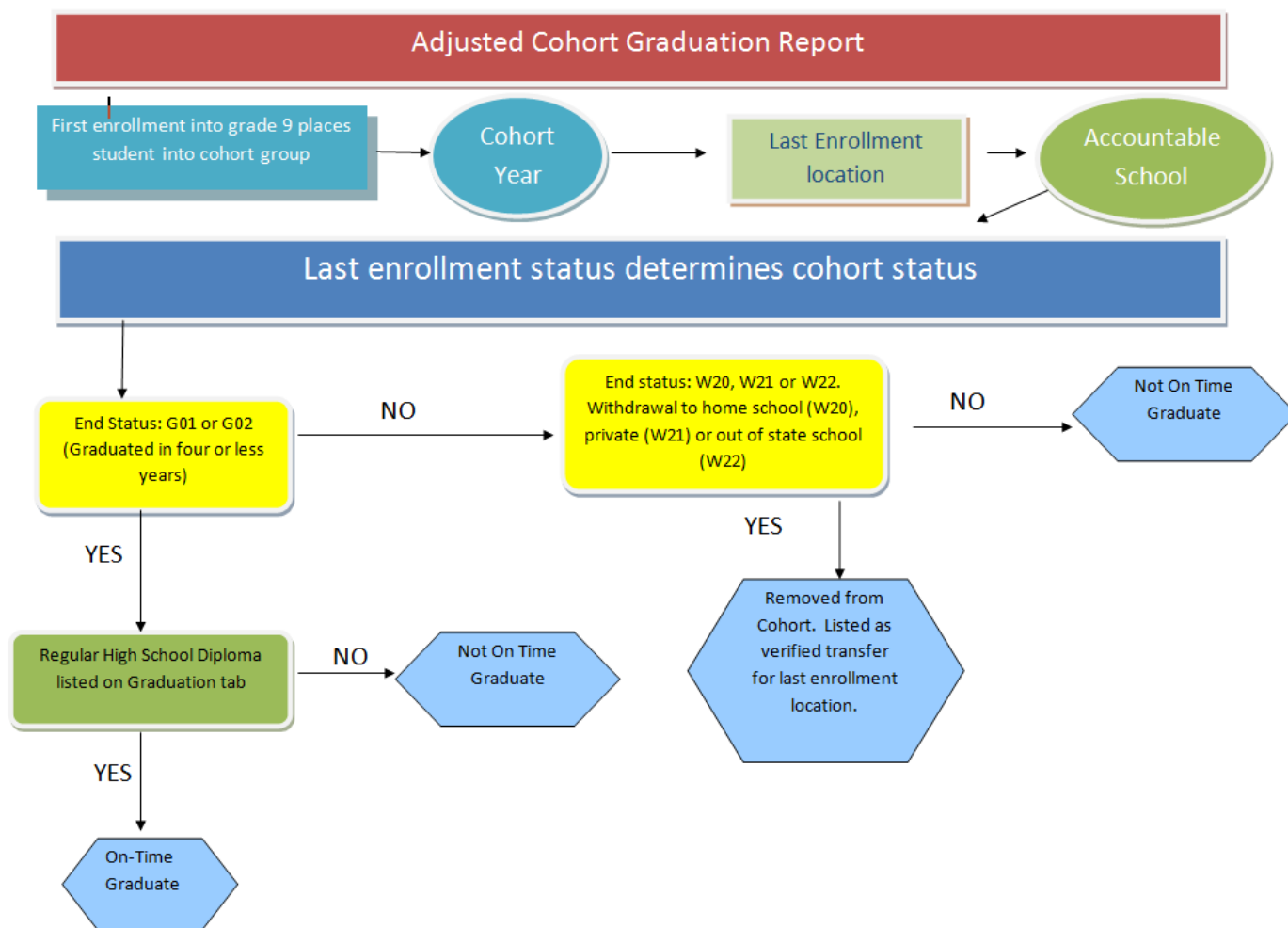
They should be in the cohort based on what year they entered the 9th grade regardless of location.

What cohort are they in if they were retained in 9th grade?

They should be in the cohort based on their first enrollment in 9th grade not the last enrollment in 9th grade.

Why is student showing up on our 2014 cohort?

The student's first grade 9 enrollment was during the 2010-11 school year and the last enrollment for this student was in a school in your district. The cohort year is established based upon enrollments in IC.



How can the student be removed from our cohort list?

The student can only be removed if they have a verified transfer to another school, in Kentucky, homeschool, If the last enrollment end status is a W20 (withdrawal to homeschool), W21 (withdrawal to private school), W22 (withdrawal to another district with confirmed enrollment or out of state school) or deceased (W08), the student is moved to the verified transfer list and removed from both the top and bottom parts of the ACGR graduation rate formula. This student does not count positively or negatively for the school.

How are students who are wards of the court or at DJJ's handled?

The accountability goes to the state.

What about students who dropout within 30 days. How are they handled for accountability?

For cohort, the accountability starts immediately upon enrollment and remains with the school unless the student becomes a verified transfer. State law allows for a 30 day rule for dropout data collected in the fall for the state for the prior year and 100 days for testing. Both are data reported on a yearly basis. Federal and state law currently has no accountability limitation for cohort since it is a student level longitudinal system.

I received a record request for a previously withdrawn to student. How do I handle?

You can change the withdraw code on the last enrollment to be correct based on new information.

Our Alternative schools issue diplomas. Will my alternative school be reported publically?

No, Alternate schools (A2-A7) counts will be included in the district/state counts that are reported publically. But there will not be a line in the report that identifies the counts coming from the alternative school. If the regular public school (A1) issues the diploma then those will be reported under that school.

Questions

For questions regarding the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate calculation, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at (502) 564-4394 or via e-mail at kdeassessment@education.ky.gov.